

Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Investing in Missouri



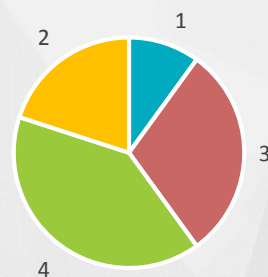
Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Created by the 2014 Farm Bill, the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) is a partner-driven, locally-led approach to conservation. It offers new opportunities for USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to harness innovation, welcome new partners to the conservation mission, and demonstrates the value and efficacy of voluntary, private lands conservation.

In 2017, NRCS is investing up to \$225 million in 88 projects that impact every state in the nation, including two in Missouri. Since 2014, NRCS has invested more than \$825 million in 286 high-impact projects, bringing together more than 2,000 conservation partners who have invested an additional \$1.4 billion. By 2018, NRCS and partners will have invested at least \$2.4 billion. These projects are leading to cleaner and more abundant water, better soil and air quality, enhance wildlife habitat, more resilient and productive agricultural lands and stronger rural economies.

Missouri Projects to Date

Projects by Resource Concern



- Soil Health
- Water Quality
- Wildlife Habitat
- Water Quantity/Drought

10

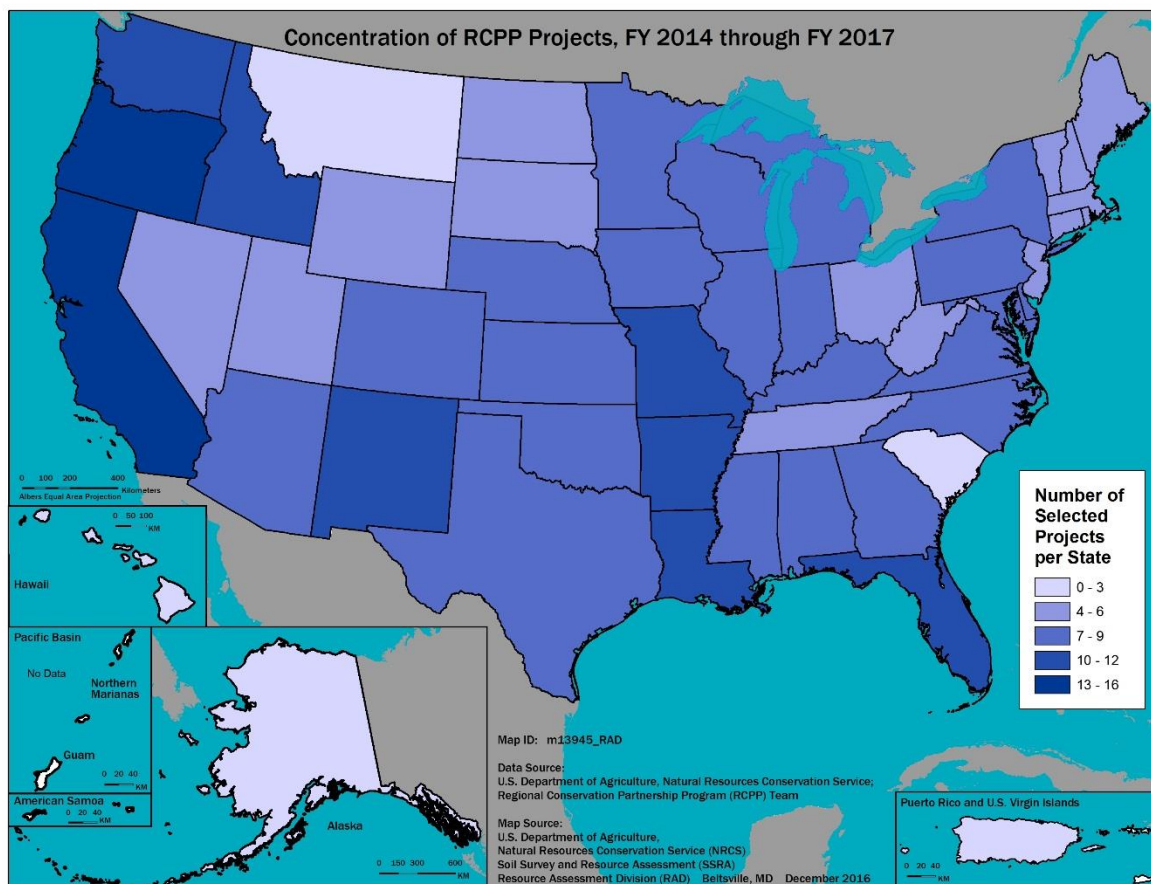
Projects

\$35.34
million

NRCS Investment

114

Partners



Existing RCPP Projects

Year	Title	Funding Pool	Lead Partner	Number of Partners	NRCS Investment
2016	Cover Crops for Soil Health and Water Quality	State	Missouri Department of Agriculture	12	\$2.4 million
2016	Improving Working Lands for Monarch Butterflies	National	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	12	\$6 million
2014/2015	Our Missouri Waters Targeted Conservation	CCA	Missouri Department of Natural Resources	10	\$6 million
2014/2015	Little Otter Creek Watershed Project	CCA	Caldwell County Commission	2	\$1.3 million
2014/2015	Northwest Missouri Urban and Rural Farmers United for Conservation	State	Jackson County Soil and Water Conservation District	4	\$800,000
2014/2015	Restoring Glade and Woodland Communities for Threatened Species in the Ozarks of Southeast Missouri	State	Missouri Department of Conservation	3	\$1.7 million
2014/2015	Regional Grassland Bird and Grazing Lands Enhancement Initiative	National	The Missouri Department of Conservation	15	\$5 million
2014/2015	Rice Stewardship Partnership - Sustaining the Future of Rice	National	Ducks Unlimited	39	\$10 million

2017 RCPP Projects

Conservation Ranching Program for Missouri Farmers

Proposed NRCS Investment: \$1,008,000 (State)
Lead Partner: Missouri Department of Conservation
Number of Initial Partners: 4
Participating States: Missouri (Lead State)

The Conservation Ranching Program for Missouri Farmers program will create and implement market-based management strategies that lead to the adoption of scientifically-proven pasture management practices that provide bird-friendly habitat on actively grazed pasture. The National Audubon Society has launched proof-of-concept pilots of the Conservation Ranching Program in four geographies, including Missouri. The program will link beef producers who voluntarily implement improved pasture and grassland management practices to the retail marketplace. Participating cattle producers will be rewarded with a premium price for pasture-raised beef that is produced on lands managed using applied conservation practices. The Conservation Ranching Program for Missouri Farmers Regional Conservation Partnership Program will provide financial and technical assistance to Missouri livestock producers to assist in the adoption of pasture management practices that align with the Audubon CRP habitat standards. The habitat standards and program protocols are aimed at holistic management practices that support grassland bird-friendly beef production, and provide other environmental benefits, including soil health, water quality and water quantity.



Northwest Missouri Partnership for Water Quality

Proposed NRCS Investment: \$1,135,500 (State)

Lead Partner: Holt County Soil and Water Conservation District

Number of Initial Partners: 13

Participating States: Missouri (Lead State)

The Northwest Missouri Partnership for Water Quality will target counties that are adjacent to and drain directly into the Missouri River. As a baseline, the project partners will complete soil microbial analysis, soil carbon and nitrogen analysis and other soil processes. The project will focus outreach efforts to treat 50 to 80% of the contributing cropland with project practices and then show results of the treatment through monitoring. This partnership seeks to become a working model of how federal and state government along with not for profit entities, small business and institution of higher learning can come together with resources to achieve significant improvement to water quality and quantity.